



CIVIL AIR PATROL
CADET PROGRAMS YEAR IN REVIEW
2009



1. Membership Growth. Increased cadet membership to 23,800 youth nation-wide, a 7.8% increase from 2008. By comparison, adult membership held roughly steady at -0.3%. Among that total cadet population are 1,925 school-based cadets, with that segment of the corps growing 14% since 2008.

2. Recruiting Support. Produced the "Cadet Life" recruiting video slideshow, a 3-minute introduction to the Cadet Program, focusing on the opportunities available to first-year cadets.

3. Cadet Flying. Provided 8,184 distinct cadets with orientation flights for a 9.8% increase over 2008 and a 25% increase since 2007. This set of flights included 9,575 powered aircraft flights and 2,191 glider sorties. Notably, glider sorties are up 46% over the past two years.

4. Curriculum. The School Program, which offers the CAP Cadet Program as an in-school or after-school activity for students in grades 6 through 12, came under the management of the NHQ Cadet Team (vice aerospace education) in 2009. Some of the curricular resources published in 2009 to support community- and school-based cadets were:

- ◆ Respect on Display (*guide to military courtesy*)
- ◆ Cadet Program Officers' Handbook
- ◆ Learn to Lead Activity Guide
- ◆ The Cadet Super Chart
- ◆ Cadet Programs Resource Guide
- ◆ Orientation Flight Syllabus
- ◆ Drill instructional videos (*online*)

Additionally, finished drafting *Learn to Lead* modules 1 and 2, a new leadership textbook launching in April 2010.

5. National Cadet Special Activities.

Conducted a vibrant program of 30+ summer activities. Introduced 1,314 cadets to advanced concepts in leadership or aerospace-related careers through the National Cadet Special Activities program. Graduated 20 cadets at the first ever Air Force Civil Engineering Familiarization Course at Tyndall AFB, and 5 cadets from Honors Camps through a new partnership with AFJROTC. Participated in the 62nd annual International Air Cadet Exchange by sending 75 CAP members abroad and accepting 75 international participants from 14 different nations. NCSA statistics were on par with 2008's.

6. National Cadet Competition. Conducted the National Cadet Competition at the Evergreen Aviation Museum, home of the Spruce Goose. Our distinguished guest was AF/CV General William Fraser. Utah's drill team and New York's color guard won top honors. Despite the great success of NCC at the national level, a 2009 survey reported that fewer than 1,000 cadets (4% of the total corps) participate in a wing-level competition.



2009 Cadet of the Year

Congratulations to our Cadet of the Year, the Spaatz cadet, champion archer and ice skater, black belt, private pilot, musician, biomedical engineering student, and aspiring physician who dreams of helping disabled veterans, C/Col Kate Witacre of Indiana, shown here receiving her award from Maj Gen Amy Courter, CAP's National Commander.



7. Cyber Patriot. Participated for the first time on a wide scale. Fifty-five teams took part in Cyber Patriot, an AFA-sponsored youth cyber defense competition. Four of the eight teams competing at Cyber Patriot's national-level championship this winter are CAP teams.

8. Encampments. Introduced 4,718 cadets to leadership and aerospace fundamentals through 41 encampments, most of which were one week in duration and conducted at the wing level. These statistics are on par with previous years.

9. Scholarships. Managed over \$300,000 in college and flight scholarships for CAP members. Program statistics were on par with 2008's, with CAP retaining all scholarship partners.

10. Web Presence. Launched the Cadet Blog (capmembers.com/cadets), which received 198,000 visits in 2009, a 120% increase in traffic compared with the previous home page.



A perspective on 2009

CURT LAFOND NHQ Cadet Team

The CAP Cadet Program is on the rise. Cadet membership is up, flying is up, and leaders have more curricular resources available than ever before.

More than thirty years' data shows that recruiting and retention figures ebb and flow, yet remain in the same neighborhood. Although the Cadet Program clearly performed better in 2009 than it did in 2008, we're yet to break through the perennial ceilings of 25,000 cadets and a first-year retention rate of 33%. Until we do that, I don't think anyone can say we've produced transformational change (to use the buzzword), though this year's data is encouraging. If we continue to focus on the fundamentals – exciting weekly meetings, lots of flying, and something cool for cadets to do about one Saturday per month – cadet morale will run high and the metrics will take care of themselves.

New activities like the Air Force Civil Engineering Familiarization Course and the AFJROTC Honors Camps have great potential. But from my chair, curriculum remains key because the majority of our handbooks, activity guides, pamphlets, textbooks, and the like directly contribute to the success of the Tuesday night squadron meeting.

"Tuesday night" must remain our mantra. My volunteer counterpart, Lt Col Ned Lee, says, "We can have an great IACE, thrilling Blue Beret, and fabulous civic academy, but if Tuesday night is boring, we'll lose." I don't know anyone who disagrees.

To support "Tuesday night," in 2010 we'll launch the *Learn to Lead* textbook (modules 1 and 2, serving cadets through the Mitchell Award). Concurrently, watch for cadet achievement tests (but not milestone exams) to become available online. And for community-based and school-based squadrons alike, an optional syllabus (working title: "squadron in a box") will offer recipe-like plans for two years' worth of meetings.

Another 2009 innovation that can support Tuesday night is Cyber Patriot. Sponsored by the Air Force Association, this activity has cadets defend a virtual computer network against "attack." Although CAP sent a team in 2008, this year was our first real year of large-scale participation. We're working hard with AFA and CAP leaders to make this hands-on computer-based activity become a staple of cadet life. With Air Force leaders declaring cyber the new frontier in national defense, expect to see more high-tech activities in the coming years.

Finally, speaking as a former squadron commander and wing DCP, I know that National Headquarters can help or hinder cadet life, but in the end, it is the local leaders who make the real difference. Truly. CAP's success in 2009 is the result of the adult volunteers who lead and mentor our extraordinary young patriots.

Semper Vigilans!

KEY STATISTICS for '09

Cadet Units (with at least 5 cadets) 1,017

Cadet Membership 23,800
5-Year Mean 22,200

Male 81%
Female 19%

Median Age 15.5
Age 13 or under 24.6%
Age 14-17 60.6%
Age 18-20 14.9%

Cadet Retention
First Year 33.0%
Overall 48.4%
5-Year Mean 47.4%

Encampment *completed at least 1* 38%

Flying *completed at least 1 o-flight* 56%

Milestone Award Rates
Wright Brothers 30.4%
Mitchell 11.4%
Earhart 3.9%
Eaker 1.2%
Spaatz 0.3%

CP-Rated Senior Members 4,079
Technician 1,991
Senior 865
Master 1,223

Spaatz Coins Returned from Outer Space
Courtesy of Astronaut Eric Boe 1.0

Not Available: military enlistments, ROTC, service academies, and racial and economic diversity



CIVIL AIR PATROL NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

CAPMEMBERS.COM/CADETS 877.227.9142